

# DEFLATE AND DENY: PAT'S DISOWN STORY

BRADY AND BELICHICK PASS THE "DEFLATE-GATE" BLAME. PAGE 21



# metro

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Weekend, January 23-25, 2015 [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us) | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

## Subway fares will be going up in March

PAGE 02

## Secrets for a smoother natural birth

PAGE 10

## Selena: Caught in bed with who?!

PAGE 19



**Movies.** After spending the past year on music, the actress-singer is back in films with the steamy thriller "The Boy Next Door." She talks about getting hot and heavy in the name of art and how she's somehow managed to never have a stalker.

PAGE 14

## Jennifer Lopez UNCOVERED

Jennifer Lopez stars in the new movie "The Boy Next Door." / WIREIMAGE

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# 1 NEWS

Top 3

*The best of Metro.us*

1 'Interview: Al Pacino talks 'The Humbling' and for-getting lines'

2 'Amex and eBay to cut thousands of jobs'

3 'Marvel stars make awesome Super Bowl bet'



On the go

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# Fares up 4 percent, single ride to \$2.75

**Transit.** MTA board approves 4 percent increase on subways, buses, trains and tolls.

Straphangers: Start saving your quarters.

Starting March 22, single rides on city subways and buses will jump 25 cents to \$2.75, after a vote by the MTA board Thursday.

Monthly MetroCards will increase by \$4.50 to \$116.50. MTA bridges and tunnels, and Long Island Rail Road tickets will also rise 4 percent.

The bonus for putting more than two rides on a MetroCard will double to 11 percent.

"Folks should really do the math," said New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg during the meeting. "The proposal is as fair as it can be under the circumstances."

MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast said the "modest" increase was necessary to maintain the level of service and balance the budget and ensure a "higher quality of service."

Gene Russianoff, staff attorney for the Straphangers Campaign, told Metro the bonus boost on cash cards helps the MTA by letting it hold the cash of riders who buy "in bulk."

"That gives the MTA an advance or float when riders buy more MetroCard value than they need in

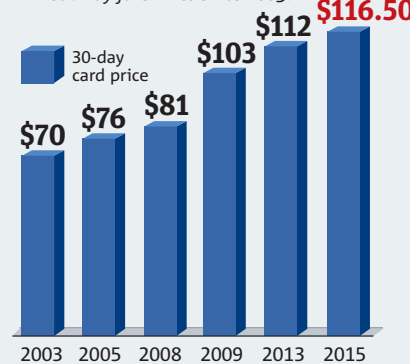


Straphangers will be paying more for their fares. / CARLOS LLAMAS, METRO

BILLY BECERRA, METRO

## History of fare increases

MTA subway fare hikes since 2003:



**2015:** Base fare increases to \$2.75 from \$2.50; single rides increase to \$3 from \$2.75. MTA tolls increase about 4%.

**2013:** Base fares increased to \$2.50 from \$2.25; single rides increased to \$2.75 from \$2.25, bridges and tunnels to \$7.50 from \$6.50.

**2011:** MTA starts charging \$1 for new MetroCards.

**2010:** Pay-per-ride rates stay at \$2.25, MTA cuts bonus to 7%, and requires riders to spend \$10 to get it.

**2009:** Base fares increased to \$2.50 from \$2.

**2003:** Single rides increase 33% to \$2.



Source: MTA

the short run, allowing unused value to build up," Russianoff said.

Russianoff said that about 25 percent of riders who buy a monthly farecard would spend less paying per ride, but don't know it.

Russianoff said the city must boost its contribution to the MTA's budget.

A report released Thursday by the New York City Independent Budget Office found the city has been contributing about \$100 million a year since 1982. Taking inflation into account would force the city to pay about \$363 million a year.

If the city contributed that amount last year, the

MTA would have \$1.8 billion more in its Capital Fund for projects including the Second Avenue subway and the 7 Line extension. The fund is currently \$15 billion short for 2015-2019.



WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE  
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

## Messages to the MTA



"They need to focus on fixing the essential things on the system. It seems they waste a lot of money just in information technology."

Ruben Santana, 26, Upper West Side  
Uses weekly MetroCard



"It's not good for the students because on the weekends they are going to stay more in the neighborhood and less knowing and enjoying the city."

Sharyn Jean Baptiste, 16, Flatbush  
Uses student card



"The price is too high already to push it more, but the service is good."

Scott Cerbin, 42, downtown Brooklyn  
Uses single ride card

## Safety. Former NYPD chief to be state's terror watchdog



Kelly. / GETTY

Former New York City top cop Ray Kelly will oversee an audit of statewide agencies to see how prepared they are to resist terrorist attacks.

Kelly, who served as NYPD commissioner for 12 years across two administrations, will head the effort to shore up New York State's coun-

terterrorism readiness.

"As a lifelong New Yorker, the longest serving Commissioner in NYPD history and the leader of the NYPD's counterterrorism efforts for over 10 years, Commissioner Kelly is uniquely situated to recognize the threats facing New York and to identify

the solutions necessary to confront them," Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office said in a statement.

Kelly faced significant criticism for his counterterrorism efforts after the Associated Press reported in 2012 on a NYPD surveillance unit that targeted local Muslim communities.

Kelly successor Bill Bratton announced the unit's disbanding in April 2014.

Last year, Cuomo named Kelly as a special advisor on homeland security and put him in charge of the nation's first Emergency Preparedness College.

METRO



# 7 2015 Service Changes

## Major 7 Line Weekend Service Changes

In 2015, significant weekend work on three capital improvement projects on the 7 Line in Queens continues: installation of a new Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) signal system; elevated track replacement and infrastructure work; and the reconstruction and fortification of the Steinway Tubes.

The majority of this work is scheduled over weekends when ridership is lower and gives our workers continuous, train-free access to the 7 Line. We are aware of the inconvenience these and other disruptions cause, and we appreciate your patience.

These projects will bring a modern, state-of-the-art signal system and reliable, resilient infrastructure upgrades to the 7 Line.

### Stay Informed

Visit [mta.info](http://mta.info) for **The Weekender**, to sign-up for free email and text alerts, view planned service change information, or to use **TripPlanner+** to learn more about these weekend changes as well as *weeknight* changes to 7 service. Look for posters and brochures at affected stations.

Deaf/hard of hearing customers: use your preferred relay service provider, the free **711** service relay, or call **877-690-5116** and ask the representative to connect you to **511**.

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While not expected, dates are subject to change.

### Between Late Friday and Early Monday

Dates	Service Changes
Jan 24 - 26*	No trains between Times Sq-42 St and Queensboro Plaza
Jan 30 - Feb 2	
Feb 6 - 9	
Feb 27 - Mar 2	No trains between Times Sq-42 St and 74 St-Broadway
Mar 6 - 9	
Mar 14 - 16*	No trains between Times Sq-42 St and Hunters Point Av
Mar 21 - 23*	
Mar 28 - 30*	
May 22 - 25	No trains between Mets-Willets Point and Flushing-Main St

\*Service Changes in effect from 2 AM Saturday to 5 AM Monday



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## Housing. Council member wants to give NYC renters a 'fair shot'

New York City's 2.5 million rent-stabilized tenants may get a better shot at fighting annual rent increases under a new proposal before the City Council.

Councilman Corey Johnson (D-Manhattan), introduced a bill on Thursday that would change the way the Rent Guidelines Board decides how much rents can rise each year.

Johnson and other critics say the current barometer is an outdated way of tracking what it costs landlords to keep up buildings.

"Tenants deserve a fair shot. These reforms, if adopted, would give them a fighting chance against the real estate industry," Johnson said in a statement.

Sheila Garcia, an organizer with Community Action for Safe Apartments in the southwest Bronx, and a tenant representative on the



Renters have seen prices soar over the last decade. / GETTY IMAGES

### Close quarters

Half the tenants living in the south Bronx are paying 50 percent of their income in rent.

- Many tenants are forced

to double and triple up in apartments to afford annual increases.

- In 2012, 11,000 people were evicted in the Bronx.

board, said tenants face constant increases, from their landlords doing building maintenance and installing new appliances, to rents going up simply because an apart-

ment becomes vacant.

"We've been waiting for this to happen, we know the data has been skewed for the landlords' benefit," Garcia said.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

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## Manhattan

## Security officer found dead in U.S. courthouse

A security officer was found dead in the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse on Thursday morning after taking his own life.

Robert Newell, 50, shot himself in a basement locker room of the courthouse at 40 Centre St. at 5:32 a.m., the Daily News reported.

Newell is a retired NYPD officer who worked for a security company used by the U.S. Marshal Service.

According to the Daily News Newell retired in 2000.

A U.S. Marshal Service spokesperson said judicial members and other courthouse employees were never in danger.

Newell's colleagues declined to speak.

METRO

# State Assembly Speaker declares his innocence

**Corruption.** FBI arrested Sheldon Silver on charges of abuse of power.

Federal agents arrested long-time State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, the second most-powerful politician in New York State, Thursday morning and charged him with using his office to unlawfully enrich himself.

One of Albany's "three men in a room," who held near-absolute power over law making and spending in the state, Silver, a Democrat from lower Manhattan, spoke quietly from a Manhattan courthouse on Thursday afternoon as reporters swarmed him.

"I am confident that when all the issues are



Sheldon Silver outside a New York court house Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

## Quote

**"I am confident that when all the issues are aired, I will be vindicated."**

-Silver

aired, I will be vindicated," said Silver, is charged with five counts of corruption.

Minutes earlier, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara blasted Silver and charged the longtime lawmaker had abused his political position for personal gain.

"The show-me-the-

money culture of Albany has been perpetuated and promoted at the very top of the political food chain," Bharara told reporters. "The greedy art of secret self-reward was practiced with particular cleverness and cynicism by the speaker himself."

Silver, 70, was released on \$200,000 bail and sur-

rendered his passport. The pretrial hearing for Silver, who was first elected to office in 1976 and became speaker in 1994, is scheduled for Feb. 23.

Each charge against Silver can carry up to 20 years of prison.

Just a day earlier, Silver sat beside Gov. Andrew Cuomo while the governor delivered his annual State of the State address.

Cuomo called the charges "a bad reflection on government" that will add to public cynicism about New York's notoriously corrupt state government, but he refrained from saying whether he thought Silver should step down, the Daily News reported.



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## Deeper into chaos

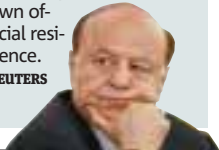
Yemen's  
president  
resigns

Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi resigned on Thursday, throwing the volatile Arab country deeper into chaos days after Houthi rebels battled their way into his presidential palace.

Hadi, a counter-terrorism ally of the United States, stood down abruptly shortly after Prime Minister Khaled Baha had offered his government's resignation, saying it did not want to be dragged into "an unconstructive political maze".

This was an apparent reference to a stand-off between Hadi and the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi movement that has been holding the president a virtual prisoner in his own official residence.

REUTERS



# Obama to snub Netanyahu during Israeli leader's visit



President Obama will not meet with Benjamin Netanyahu when the Israeli prime minister visits Washington, D.C. / GETTY IMAGES

**Blindsiding Obama.** Speaker Boehner invited the Israeli prime minister to address Congress on Feb. 11.

President Barack Obama won't meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he visits Washington in March to address a pro-Israel group and speak to Congress because it's too close to the Israeli elections, the White House said.

Netanyahu plans to speak at the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington and will address Congress on March 3, the Israeli government said Thursday. Elections in Israel are set for March 17.

The decision not to have

Obama meet with Netanyahu keeps with "long-standing practice and principle" to avoid the appearance of influencing elections in other nations, said Bernadette Meehan, a White House spokeswoman.

Netanyahu's trip to Washington, though, already has become embroiled in both U.S. and Israeli politics. It puts him in the middle of a politically charged debate in Congress over imposing additional sanctions on Iran in defiance of Obama's policies. Israeli opposition lawmakers criticized his decision to speak to the U.S. Congress as a political maneuver at the height of an election campaign.

Boehner said Thursday on his Twitter feed that the speech was moved to March 3 so that Netanyahu could couple it with attendance at the annual Aipac conference, a major gath-

## Quoted

"As a matter of long-standing practice and principle, we do not see heads of state or candidates in close proximity to their elections, so as to avoid the appearance of influencing a democratic election in a foreign country."

Meehan said in an e-mail

ering of pro-Israel activists that he regularly addresses in person or by video link.

The White House said it wasn't consulted on Boehner's invitation and until the new date was set on Thursday, officials said they hadn't discussed an Obama-Netanyahu meeting with the Israeli government. **BLOOMBERG**

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## Good fences

Saudi Arabia's  
new Yemen  
strategy: Get  
behind a fence

Saudi Arabia is increasingly taking a security-first approach to neighboring Yemen, where Houthi rebels have all but seized power, wanting nothing better than to finish a new border fence and then slam shut the gates.

Riyadh convened a meeting of Gulf countries on Wednesday to threaten unspecified measures to "protect their interests" in Yemen where the Shi'ite Muslim rebels, allies of its enemy Iran, are holding the president a virtual prisoner.

But unlike in the past, the kingdom wields little influence across its border and has few established ties to Yemen's new powerbrokers. It has already suspended aid payments, its most potent leverage in the country. **REUTERS**

# Saudi King Abdullah dies; Salman is new ruler



Saudi King Abdullah / GETTY IMAGES

**Rule.** King Salman, thought to be 79, has been crown prince and defense minister since 2012.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who passed away at exactly 1 a.m. this morning," said the statement.

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has died, state television reported early on Friday and his brother Salman became king, it said in a statement attributed to Salman.

King Salman has called on the family's Allegiance Council to pay allegiance to Muqrin as his crown prince and heir.

"His Highness Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and all members of the family and the nation mourn the

Abdullah, thought to have been born in 1923, had ruled Saudi Arabia as king since 2006, but had run the country as de facto regent for a decade before that after his predecessor King Fahd suffered a debilitating stroke.

By immediately appointing Muqrin as his heir, subject to the approval of a family Allegiance Council, Salman has moved to avert widespread speculation about the immediate path of the royal succession in the world's top oil exporter.

**REUTERS**

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## 13 punished in probe

## Two California firefighters dismissed

Two California firefighters were dismissed and 13 others punished, following an investigation into a former fire chief, accused of stabbing his fiancée to death and then going on the run for two weeks, officials said on Thursday.

Police say Orville "Moe" Fleming confessed to stabbing his live-in girlfriend, Sarah Douglas, at their Sacramento home. He was arrested last May and was charged with murder.

After Fleming's estranged wife said that firefighters were having sex with prostitutes at the state fire academy, the California Department of Forestry

and Fire Protection asked the California Highway Patrol to launch an ethics investigation.

The accusations about prostitutes were found to be baseless, Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said on Thursday, but the probe uncovered unrelated cases of employees violating departmental policies, ranging from dishonesty to the misuse of state equipment and the misuse of state time.



Orville Fleming / SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Berlant said 16 employees had been placed on administrative leave since the end of December. Two of them were terminated, he said in a statement, one resigned, and 13 face punishments that include suspension, demotion and pay cuts.

The Cal Fire director, Chief Ken Pimlott, said the investigation brought to light the actions of a few individuals who had violated the public's trust.

The highway patrol's probe began after Fleming, who was a Cal Fire battalion chief, led police on a two-week manhunt after they discovered Douglas' body.

He was eventually arrested by a detective who spotted him getting off a bus in Sacramento. **REUTERS**

## BE THE NEW YORKER WHO REALLY DOES KNOW IT ALL.

### A LECTURE SERIES PRESENTED BY THE LAURA AND ISAAC PERLMUTTER CANCER CENTER.

#### WHAT'S NEW: UPDATE FROM THE ANNUAL SAN ANTONIO BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM.

The 37th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium brought scientists and clinicians together to present state-of-the-art information on breast cancer. Join us for a discussion of the latest findings presented at this premier symposium, including breast cancer prevention strategies, research, diagnosis, and treatment.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 6:00pm – 7:00pm.

**Presenter:** Freya R. Schnabel, MD.

**Location:** NYU Langone Medical Center, Smilow Research Center 1st Floor, Seminar Room, 550 First Avenue, at 31st Street.

#### BLOOD DISORDERS: TYPES, SYMPTOMS, AND TREATMENT.

Blood disorders can affect any of the three main components of blood: red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. This lecture will discuss symptoms and treatment for different types of benign blood disorders and cancers of the blood.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 4, 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

**Presenters:** Michael Grossbard, MD; Bruce Raphael, MD.

**Location:** NYU Langone Medical Center, Alumni Hall A, 550 First Avenue, at 31st Street.

These lectures are free and open to the public, but you must RSVP. To attend, call 212.263.2266 or visit [nyulmc.org/cancer-rsvp](http://nyulmc.org/cancer-rsvp). View past lectures at [youtube.com/nyulmc](http://youtube.com/nyulmc).

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## A NATION ALL ABOUT THAT GAS

I don't understand economics. Kind of like I don't understand how microwaves work, why people keep up with the Kardashians or how the Packers lost that game. But all my experience tells me that the No. 1 reason folks feel better about the economy is gas prices.

Make no mistake, the economy is improving. The unemployment rate is down, the markets are up, and apparently the Patriots are controlling inflation. Admittedly wages are still lagging, many people are underemployed, and workforce participation is considerably down. Still, there are plenty of reasons for people to feel more optimistic about the economy.

And they do, but most of the positive signs are lurking where we don't see them every day. Unless you are buying or selling a house, your home value is probably not something you think about. Stocks going up and down affect savings and pension funds, but if you're not buying a boat that's also backseat matter. So those types of issues have done little to drive hope in economically strapped households.

#### Opinion

### TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN



However, more than 200 million Americans are licensed to drive (although judging from D.C. traffic, many should not be) and the average driver covers around 37 miles a day. Do you know how often that means she must fill up her Mini Cooper? Neither do I, but it sounds like a lot. Every time those little numbers on the pump start clicking, she sees one clear measure of the cost of living. And gas prices are down close to 40 percent from last spring. If that lasts, our lady at the pump could save about \$700 dollars this year. That's equal to the GDP of Bolivia! Not quite. But you get my point.

Oddly, gas prices are part of the economy that D.C. can do almost nothing about. World markets, supply, demand ... those are the forces that control the cost. But after years of trying to dig out of the big recession, and being run over by voters angry over everything, lawmakers will take any good economic news they can find, and ride it until the wheels fall off.

**CNN-POLITICS**

## Once contractions start

## Don't fight the pain

When contractions kick in, one of the worst things you can do is clench up. Resisting the pain and wishing it away is actually a sure-fire way to experience more of it.

"With my first labor, I found the pain and was scared if it," says Katie, who adds that a positive labor experience is all about surrender. "With my second, I realized there was no way to fight it, and just surrendered to the pain. The difference was tremendous."

In my own experience, yielding to the pain served to greatly downplay its intensity. Chilling out also sped up my second delivery. (Only three hours passed between having my first contraction and holding my daughter in my arms.) But be prepared; Experts say that a first-time labor typically lasts around 18 hours.

# Tips for a happy, easy natural birth

## Pregnancy. Don't let pain or drugs ruin your delivery.

If you're pregnant and planning a natural birth, the idea of labor and delivery can be a terrifying one. This is especially true if it's your first time around. During my first drug-free delivery, the pain was more intense than I'd ever imagined.

I approached my second delivery with a sense of redemption. This time, I was determined to have a positive, drug-free birth. After reading up on the hypnobirthing approach, my whole perspective on natural childbirth changed for the better. The kicker was that I went into it feeling

empowered, and the attitude shift definitely paid off — my second daughter came into this world by way of a calm, gentle delivery.

Katie the Wellness Mama, who's had five natural births, knows a thing or two about unmedicated deliveries. Read on for three practical tips.

## Focus on your breathing

Short, altered breathing is very different from the way you breathe when you're calm and relaxed. During my first delivery, shallow, nervous breathing only triggered more fear and more pain.

"As a mom who has been through labor five times, and also as a doula, I've learned that the best



Hypnobirthing focuses on specific breathing techniques. / ISTOCK

type of the breathing in labor is the one that works best for your body, and you intuitively know what it is," says Katie. "It's just important to remember to breathe and to try to keep it slow, relaxing and rhythmic."

The hypnobirthing approach focuses on specific

breathing techniques to coincide with the different phases of labor. According to Lamaze experts, conscious breathing reduces heart rate, anxiety and pain perception.

MARIANNE HAYES  
@metroneewyork  
letters@metro.us

## Work with gravity

## Get moving

While in labor with my second child, lying flat on my back felt counter-intuitive. All I wanted to do was move around. It makes sense considering that moving freely during labor has been shown to reduce labor time and improve pain management. For Katie, it's as simple as taking advantage of gravity.

"Labor is tough work; why not let gravity make it a little easier?" she says. "In my own experience, my labors where I walked, swayed, bounced and squatted were shorter and much more comfortable than the labor where I was confined to a bed."

According to the National Institutes of Health, walking or moving around during labor allows the uterus to work more efficiently. Changing positions also helps move the pelvis, which supports the baby's transition into the birth canal.

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## CULTURE

### Music

### Back in action

Why was Lopez absent from movie screens in 2014? "For me, it's just about what feels right at the time, and I was very in music land last year," she explains.

And besides, she's making up for lost time. "I'll do two movies this year. I'll do a series this year. I'll do 'American Idol' this year," she says. "I'll do a lot of different things that we already have planned. I just go with what feels right at the time."



Jennifer Lopez tries to resist the advances of a ripped teenager (Ryan Guzman) in "The Boy Next Door." / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

# The Hopeless Romantic

**Interview.** Jennifer Lopez found the sex scenes in 'The Boy Next Door' not exactly so dreamy.

Jennifer Lopez is into guilty pleasures. And we don't mean her latest film, the steamy thriller "The Boy Next Door," where the 45-year-old plays an English teacher who succumbs to the advances of her neighbor's hot young nephew (Ryan Guzman). As you can imagine, it doesn't go very well from there. "I prefer romantic comedies," says the actress, who has starred in films less fraught with tension such as "The Wedding Planner" or "The Back-Up Plan." "They're just fun. You're

### Quoted

"It's a very vulnerable position to be in. It's not something you ever get used to."

Jennifer Lopez, on doing love scenes

just seeing how silly you can make things. They're romantic and I'm a hopeless romantic as well."

That's not to say the Golden-Globe nominee, doesn't push herself creatively. "Being more dramatic or being more tough or being more vulnerable — it's all the same. It's all about trying to find the reality in the moment, making it real. All of a sudden I have this high-pitched scream that I've never heard myself do, and that's when I know I'm tapping into something real."

Another challenge of the role was the extremely intimate sex scene that sets the craziness of the plot in motion.

"Scenes like that are always uncomfortable," she says. "It's a very vulnerable position to be in. It's not something you ever get used to as an actress."

Comfort level can't always be the priority, though, especially when so much of the story depends on a steamy scene.

"This was a very important scene in this film. If that scene didn't work — if it wasn't intense, passionate, real enough — then the rest of the movie doesn't make any sense because that's the moment that they share together," she says.

"The Boy Next Door" also gave Lopez some insight into independent filmmaking.

"We got it made on a micro-budget of \$4 million in 25 days," she reveals. "I never had done a film like that in my career. But it was very liberating as an artist because it made me realize, I can make whatever movie I want, like this. It's the material that really matters. It's like, 'Do I feel like doing this at this time?' and not waiting for a big studio to green-light something or hire you as an actress. It really is very empowering."



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### Looking back

### Lopez's own boy next door

So how much does art imitate life? Or at least, how much did the crazy story of "The Boy Next Door" resonate with the actress-singer's own life? Not that much, thankfully. Lopez happily reports that her own experiences have been much more sedate and age-appropriate. "Actually, my first boyfriend was the boy next door," she remembers. "It was the summer I turned 14. He was cute. Cute enough, I guess, at the time."

But what about the flip side of the film, when the cute enough boy next door becomes a deranged stalker? Happily, that's something she's never encountered. "I've had people kind of obsessed with me, but not like obsessed in a dangerous, scary way," she says. "No, thank God. I've never had to deal with anything like that."



Lopez





An ugly monster (voiced by Alan Cumming) and a pretty fairy (Evan Rachel Wood) play unlikely lovers in the George Lucas-shepherded "Strange Magic." / LUCASFILM

## Cartoon musical. Shakespeare and ELO get mashed together in George Lucas' 'Strange Magic'

A 15-yearlong passion project for George Lucas, this animated musical turns a very loosely adapted "A Midsummer Night's Dream" into a love story between a fairy (voice of Evan Rachel Wood) and a hideous villain with a heart of gold (Alan Cumming) that features karaoke renditions of Elvis, Whitney Houston and The Electric Light Orchestra.

**The lowdown:** Only someone who has the money to make anything could have made "Strange Magic," which reads wack on paper and plays only slightly less wack on screen. Richly detailed (or at least expensive) animation isn't served well by the autotuned jukebox numbers, which make

it fingernails-on-chalkboard grating to behold. And yet it's also admirable, in theory, up to a point. Like "Frozen," it doesn't reassert patriarchal norms, punishing female characters only to mate them with vapid bohunks. The handsome prince here is a cad and our heroine instead falls for the ugly guy.

What's interesting isn't the notion that non-hotties deserve love too, which is little more than your run-of-the-mill wish fulfillment for frightened male nerds. It's the message — not just for girls but for everyone — that love isn't found in looks but in personality. Wood's and Cumming's characters slowly warm to each other by talking and sometimes singing and realizing they share

### Review

'Strange Magic'

Director: Gary Rydstrom

Voices of: Evan Rachel Wood, Alan Cumming

Rating: PG

the same interests. (If only their banter had more screwball verve, though you can't have everything.)

The fact that a grotesque beast and a pretty tomboy share a kiss because they actually like each other seems downright radical — if perhaps not enough to make the rest of the movie more bearable. **MATT PRIGGE**

### Review

'Cake'

Jennifer Aniston takes on the role of Claire, a woman with scars that came from a tragedy revealed gradually throughout the film, which mostly shows her being a jerk to everyone, including her Mexican maid (Adriana Barraza).

**The lowdown:** In "Cake," Aniston engages in a well-worn cliché: de-prettying herself for awards — or, as it turned out, mostly awards buzz. It's a craven career move, especially as she's already proven her chops by simply being good in "The Good Girl" and "Friends with Money."



Jennifer Aniston plays an unhappy woman dealing with tragedy and her own sourness in "Cake."

CINELOU RELEASING

But an actorly stunt is the least of "Cake"'s problems. A sour, one-note dirge, it mistakes unrelenting self-pity for honesty, stewing in the pain of someone stewing in pain, and as oblivious to the misery of others as its self-involved,

blinkered protagonist can be.

"Cake" nimbly avoids certain indie clichés; when she makes friends with a quietly sad sack widower (Sam Worthington), one expects a romance to flower. It doesn't happen. But then little does happen in "Cake" apart from Claire toggling between withering sarcasm and deep self-pity. Every time she seems to have gone too far into being unlikable, her back pain crops up again, or we learn just a little bit more about the unimaginable accident/tragedy that destroyed her life — a pointless narrative striptease that leads to an anticlimax, on top of some unearned sympathy. **MP**

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## Trash movie. Jennifer Lopez is pretty OK in new lackluster thriller 'The Boy Next Door'

"Fatal Attraction" gets spliced with the "Hot for Teacher" video in this thriller, in which Jennifer Lopez's unlikely educator briefly gives in to the seductions of a ripped, "Iliad"-loving 19-year-old (Ryan Guzman, 27), who turns out to be a psycho.

**The lowdown:** In 1998, after her turn in "Out of Sight," it seemed perfectly sane to wish that up-and-coming actress Jennifer Lopez would become a big star. That good will quickly curdled over a series of wan movies and calculated



Ryan Guzman is sort of into Jennifer Lopez in "The Boy Next Door."  
/ SUZANNE HANOVER

career moves. But believe it or not, there are instances in the trash-o-rama that is "The Boy Next Door" where one can see, not a great Lopez performance,

but a pretty good one. She gives her character a subtle depth of real feeling — sometimes. Other times she can't do anything to salvage the crap around her, and doesn't try.

Of course, this is one of those casually misogynist scarefests, where a woman is punished for her lust. Most of Noah's pranks are more giggle-inducing than menacing, as is his penchant for double entendres. ("It got pretty wet here." Hello, nurse!) There's a faint trace that the filmmakers know they're making camp. The over-the-top climax would bear that out, but the lazy shrug with which it concludes confirms that it's closer to hackwork. **MATT PRIGGE**

### Review

'The Boy Next Door'

Director: Rob Cohen

Stars: Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman

Rating: R

• • • • •



# A Brit in the Revolution

**Interview.** Ben Barnes brought some British flavor to his portrayal of Samuel Adams.

### Bonus question

#### Action star

**Did you get to do any of your own stunts?**

There was one really cool move, where I was to leap off a rooftop and grab this flagpole with a Union Jack on it and swing around and land and I really wanted to do it. And he did it, it's not that high, I can do it! And they said no, you have to let the stunt double do it. And he did it, ran off, grabbed onto the flag pole and it immediately snapped and he fell to the ground. It wasn't very far and he was fine, but I was like, ah, actually it's good that they didn't let me do it.



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person. I knew he was on the beer. I'd drunk the beer and it was too bitter for me. I think when they teach history in British classrooms, we kind of gloss over anything that's the fall of the empire. [Laughs] So if we lose a colony, that's not something you want to dwell on.

**Was it weird to film something like this as a Brit?**

There was a little bit of jibbing that happened in the beginning. There's a very cool kind of "Ocean's Eleven" type heist in it where we heist this gun powder silo and we dress up as redcoats, as British soldiers, and it was the only costume I didn't need a fitting for! It just fit perfectly, and I was waltzing around all day, just showing off in my red coat, telling people just how great I looked in it, and wasn't red my color. So that was really fun to do.

**Where did you film?**

We were exclusively in Bucharest in Romania. ... We actually filmed some of the battle scenes on the field where Vlad the Impaler impaled his victims, so that had a creepy vibe.

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# Stormy water up ahead

**Interview.** Hannah New says Eleanor Guthrie will face some tough times in Season 2 of "Black Sails."

Eleanor Guthrie ended the first season of Starz's pirate drama, "Black Sails," in a bit of a bad situation. The unpredictable Captain Vane (Zach McGowan) had taken over the fort in Nassau, and her ally, Captain Flint (Toby Stephens), was away at sea in search of a possibly fictional treasure. But don't expect life to get easier on her, says

the actress who plays her, Hannah New.

"You find her at rock bottom at the beginning of this season," she says. "You can't really imagine that things can get much worse. Everything's falling apart for her. By the end of this season, you realize that the bottom is even deeper than you could ever have imagined."

New says that Season 2 will take a more global look at the world of piracy, from policy in Europe to what it really means when the show's pirates succeed at their schemes. "You realize this isn't just



"Black Sails" returns Saturday at 9 p.m. on Starz.  
STARZ ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

about gold and money, it's about political alliances," New says.

Eleanor will also face real danger in the form of Captain Vane. "She's playing a very dangerous game with Vane, thinking that she has all the political power, but not really realizing that the brawn and physical power that he has is going to prevent her from making the right decisions and it's going to prevent her from having the security she needs," says New. "Her life is in threat throughout Season 2."



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## Frenemy time

### No kissing and making up

One of Eleanor's issues in Season 1 was the conflict in her relationship with Max (Jessica Parker Kennedy).

"That was her closest relationship," New says. "Once that was severed, she realized how much she gave away in that relationship and maybe she underestimated Max's ability to use that information. That's going to be the biggest shock for Eleanor."

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# What he thinks, but won't say out loud

Sometimes, men just get frustrated. They can't understand some issues women go through. While my advice is to always be honest and straight up with your partner — and have the hard conversations — some men don't feel safe bringing up issues that could cause confrontation.

I asked 500 men what they wish they had the guts to bring up in conversation with their wives/girlfriends. Here are the top five:

**5** "Don't use my past mistakes against me. I'm human. I screwed up just like you do."

It's a common lament from men: "You always bring things up from two years ago!" Granted, someone who only apologizes and doesn't change is not only irritating — it's detrimental to the relationship. However, reminding someone over and over about their mistakes breeds resentment.

**Solution:** Take the time to work through the issue the



Create an atmosphere where you and your partner can be honest with each other. / ISTOCK

first time. If he habitually is inconsiderate and/or keeps doing the same things, discuss it rationally.

**4** "When you ask me a question and want the truth, don't get angry at me when I tell you straight. That creates a no-win situation for me."

He would love to tell you what he thinks. Depending on the subject matter, however, it might just be a trap. "Does this dress make me look fat?" is a classic no-win.

**Solution:** Create an atmosphere when honesty can reign. If you are a couple

that cares about each other, even the hardest questions can be safe.

**3** "It's OK if you take charge in the bedroom sometimes. It might help me loosen up and not be so inhibited or embarrassed." He has a lot of things/fantasies in his head, but he

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might be too embarrassed to share them right away — or maybe ever.

**Solution:** A woman that shows and tells what she wants is a huge turn-on.

**2** "I worry about all kinds of things. I don't share them because I don't want you to think I'm weak or that I can't handle it."

**Solution:** Tell him that you're there for both of you. The key: Don't judge.

**1** "Please, for the love of God, tell me what you want. Say it straight."

A man wants the woman he loves to be happy.

**Solution:** Be up-front with what you want and what you need. He'll make the effort, and when he does reinforce it with positive affirmations.

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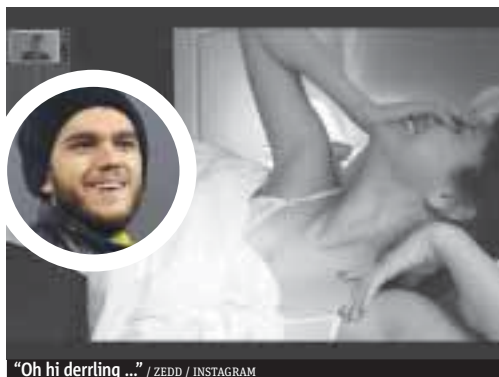
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## Zedd Instagrams Selena Gomez in bed



"Oh hi derringling ..." / ZEDD / INSTAGRAM

This should do plenty to calm those pesky dating rumors plaguing Selena Gomez and Zedd. Gomez and the elfin music producer have been working together, but rumors quickly started cropping up that their partnership is a bit more personal than that. And the photo he posted to Instagram of Gomez in bed, in a bra, laughing during a FaceTime session with him, is only fueling those rumors.

Now, I'll admit this is my first real introduction

to Zedd, and while his name suggests he's some sort of Bizarro World foe that I must defeat, the fact that he's referencing the terrible cult classic movie "The Room" instantly makes me like him. The caption of the photo is an attempt at a phonetic reading of one of director/star Tommy Wiseau's greetings — "Oh hi derringling ..." — and properly explains Gomez's laughter in the photo. Hey, maybe she has good taste after all.

## Katy Perry dominates YouTube view counts



220,387,594 OF YOU SAW THE VIDEO FOR "THIS IS HOW WE DO."

KATYPERRYVEVO / YOUTUBE

If you were watching anything music-related on YouTube last year, there's a good chance it was Katy Perry. Her channel was the most-watched on the video site among musicians, pulling in nearly 2.4 billion views last year. So this whole Super Bowl halftime thing totally makes sense. Three of her videos alone — "Dark Horse," "This Is How We Do" and "Birthday" — were responsible for 1.2 billion of those views.

## Two Marvel stars make an awesome Super Bowl bet

Two of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's reigning heroes, Chris Evans of "Captain America" and "Guardians of the Galaxy" star Chris Pratt, have taken their hometown pride and NFL rivalry and turned it into something positive. Boston native and Patriots fan Evans started off the taunting by pointing out that he and Washington

state-bred Pratt would have to be enemies for the next two weeks, but the smack talk quickly evolved into a rather noble bet. "Seahawks win, you fly yourself to Seattle, visit [Seattle's Children's] hospital as Captain America, waving the 12th man flag," Pratt wagered, to which Evans replied, "I accept. And when the Patriots humiliate your sea-chickens, I expect Star-Lord to arrive at [Boston area children's cancer treatment center

Christopher's Haven] in a Brady jersey."

Pratt couldn't resist getting in one last very topical burn: "Humiliate my Seahawks? Maybe talk to Brady about deflating your expectations. BOOM!" By the way, the other Marvel Chris, "Thor" star Chris Hemsworth, is Australian and likely has no idea what these two are on about.



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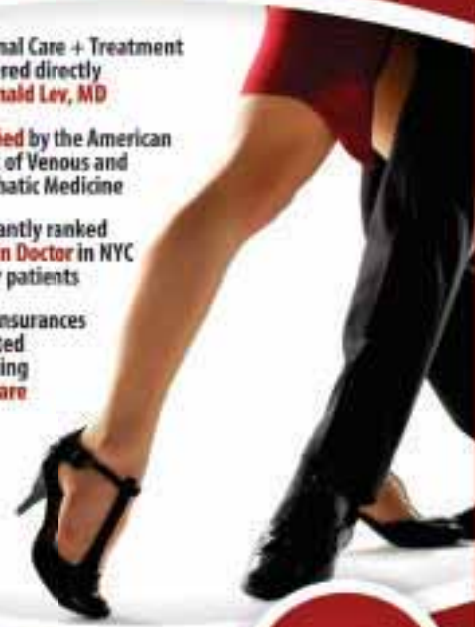
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## Horoscope

**Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.** Confidence and tenacity will lead to achievement. A romantic encounter will not be as straightforward as you hope. Honesty is essential.

**Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.** You'll have trouble analyzing a situation if you don't get all the facts and figures. Don't rely on hearsay or speculation.

**Aries | March 21-April 20.** If you are able to help someone out, it will end up benefiting you as well. Do whatever possible to form a close bond with friends as well as colleagues.

**Taurus | April 21-May 21.** Financial or health concerns will cause some difficulties if you haven't been diligent in the way you handle such matters.

**Gemini | May 22-June 20.** You will be able to outmaneuver the competition if you multitask and are determined. Any challenge you take on will contribute to your advancement.

**Cancer | June 21-July 22.** You will be acclaimed for choosing a unique approach to reach your goal. A collaborative effort will be successful.

**Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.** Building partnerships with clients who live in your community will be as fruitful as doing business with someone far away.

**Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Your reputation will be questioned if you exaggerate or embellish what you have to offer. If you want to be treated as a contender, present a realistic view of your skills and mindset.

**Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** All eyes will be on you. Favorable attention will help you achieve what you have been working toward.

**Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.** You won't have a lot of time to make a critical decision. Close family or the people you live with will be hard to get along with.

**Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.** A trip will bring surprising results. You will be better off if you distance yourself from anyone harboring unpredictable emotions.

**Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.** Avoid anyone trying to push you against your will. You will be intrigued by something that will prove a viable venture. **EUGENIA LAST**

## Sudoku: Easy and hard

		9	1					5
		3		9		4	2	7
			7	6	2		1	
8								
	1		3		6		4	
								1
	7		2	8	3			
2	3	8		1		7		
4					5	2		

	2	4		6	5	1		
1						8		5
3				9			4	
		6		2				
	7		9		1		8	
				8		9		
	4			3				8
6		8						9
		7	4	1		5	6	

**How to play**  
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Crossword

### Across

- 1 Que. or Ont.
- 5 Arm bone
- 9 Industrial giant
- 13 John and —
- 14 Winter constellation
- 15 Freeway clogger
- 16 Lunar valley
- 17 Send payment
- 18 Lowly laborer
- 19 On cloud nine
- 21 Jackie's second
- 22 Belief systems
- 23 Astronaut — Shepard
- 25 Nymph who pined away
- 27 Sillier
- 31 Football, abroad
- 35 Legend
- 36 Do perfectly
- 38 View from Giza
- 39 Take one's breath away
- 40 Zeno follower
- 42 Oath
- 43 Asked out
- 46 Eight, in Milano
- 47 Triangle part
- 48 Foul-ups
- 50 In irons
- 52 S&L protector
- 54 Brownish tint
- 55 Mrs. Charles
- 58 Afore
- 60 Shout

64 Knighted Guinness

- 65 Change colors
- 67 High flier
- 68 — of passage
- 69 Stormed about
- 70 Type of eagle
- 71 Sorority member
- 72 Parson's exclamation
- 73 Like Beethoven

### Down

- 1 Ceremonial fire
- 2 Churn up
- 3 Tex. neighbor
- 4 120 or 240
- 5 Ending for "depart"
- 6 City or bean
- 7 Bete —
- 8 Tomfoolery
- 9 Bland pudding
- 10 Hires a lawyer
- 11 Fermi split it
- 12 Ely and Howard
- 14 Decrees
- 20 Pipe bend
- 24 Marvy
- 26 Ad — committee
- 27 Spiky flowers
- 28 Waterloo resident
- 29 Garbo of film
- 30 Brawls
- 32 Courteous



- 33 Rust away
- 34 Heeded the cox
- 37 Not stiff
- 41 Worked for a ball club
- 44 Blotted out
- 45 Defective firework
- 47 Moved furtively
- 49 Saw-toothed ridge
- 51 — -Magnon man
- 53 — of the crop
- 55 DEA operative
- 56 Spicy stew
- 57 Nerve network
- 59 Perimeter
- 61 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
- 62 Sicilian volcano
- 63 Scuba-diving site
- 66 Longing

### Thursday's answer



## Letters to the editor

### Obscuring the issue

**Re: 'No justice for some' (Metro, Jan. 22)** Letter writer John McLaughlin wrote asking where is Al Sharpton's response to the killing of two white women by four black men in Florida. There is no need for a response. These men should and will be prosecuted. These four men were not policemen charged with killing the very people they were paid to protect. Further, unlike the white community, the black community will not make excuses for these men's outrageous crime. The black community will want these men to go to jail.

**BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY**

**Re: 'No justice for some' (Metro, Jan. 22)** If Al Sharpton is a "race-baiter,"

what is John McLaughlin? Mr. McLaughlin criticizes the lack of media coverage of the brutal murder of a mother and her daughter by four African-American men in Florida. How does this do anything to move us toward racial healing? While the world marched, mourned, mobilized and decried the senseless killing of innocent people by terrorists in France, there has been hardly a mention of the slaughter of 2,000 people in Nigeria by terrorists on Jan. 3. If I were as cynical or race-obsessed as Mr. McLaughlin, I would assert this silence was because those civilians were African and not white European or Jewish.

**LARRY D FOWLER, VIA EMAIL**

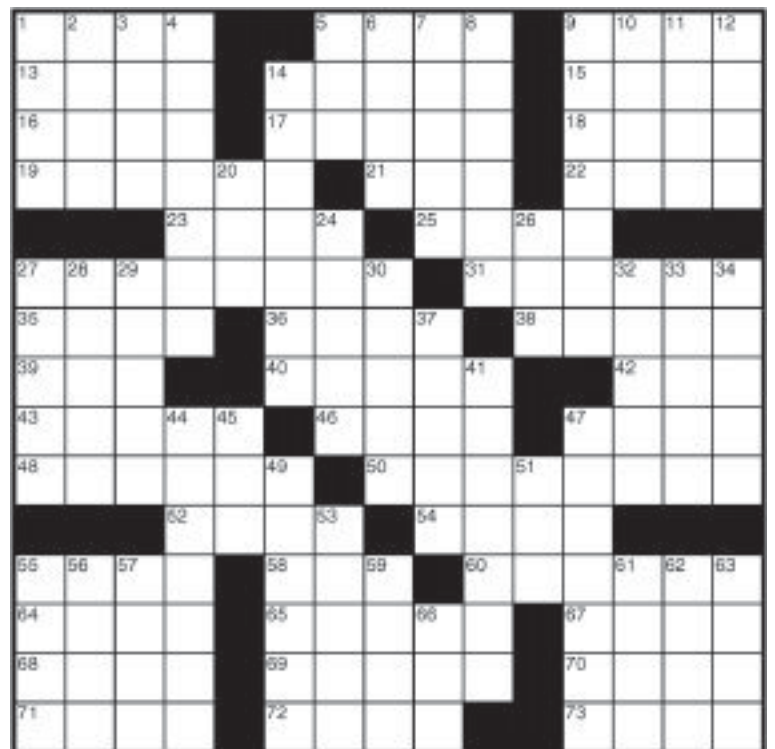
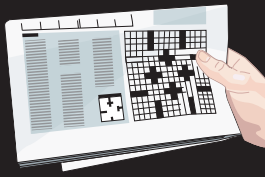
**letters@metro.us**



Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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# Brady addresses preference on football weight

**NFL.** Tom Brady has said multiple times that he likes the ball light.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady prefers his footballs to be just on the verge of underinflation. He said it in 2011 and he said it again in a half hour press conference Thursday afternoon in which he looked unusually flustered.

"I like them the way I like them, 12.5 [PSI] is a perfect grip for a football," Brady said Thursday to the media.

NFL rules state that footballs need to be inflated with 12.5 to 14.5 pounds per square inch.

A report by Pro Football Talk said that Brady also addressed "Deflate-gate" with his teammates on Thursday and told them he prefers his footballs "a certain way."

In 2011, the Patriots quarterback was joking to WEEI sports radio about tight end Rob Gronkowski and how he spikes the football after entering the end zone.

"When Gronk scores — it was like his eighth touchdown of the year — he spikes the ball and he deflates the ball. I love that, because I like the deflated ball. But I feel

bad for that football, because he puts everything he can into those spikes."

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick got into the numbers game Thursday, hinting that the original report by ESPN's Chris Mortensen in which it was stated that the Patriots' footballs were underinflated by 2 pounds may have been exaggerated.

"If a ball deflated from 13.2 to 12.9 it wouldn't matter," Belichick said. "If it deflated from 12.5 to 12.3 it would."

The (no pun intended) pressure shifted from Belichick to Brady quickly on Thursday as Belichick repeatedly denied having any knowledge of the situation.

"I think we all know that quarterbacks, kickers and specialists have certain preferences on footballs," Belichick said. "They know a lot more about it than I do. They're a lot more sensitive to it than I am and I hear them comment on it from time-to-time. They will tell you there is never any sympathy whatsoever from me on that subject. Zero."

"Tom's personal preferences with his footballs are something he can talk about in much better detail and information than I could possibly provide."

## Liar, liar

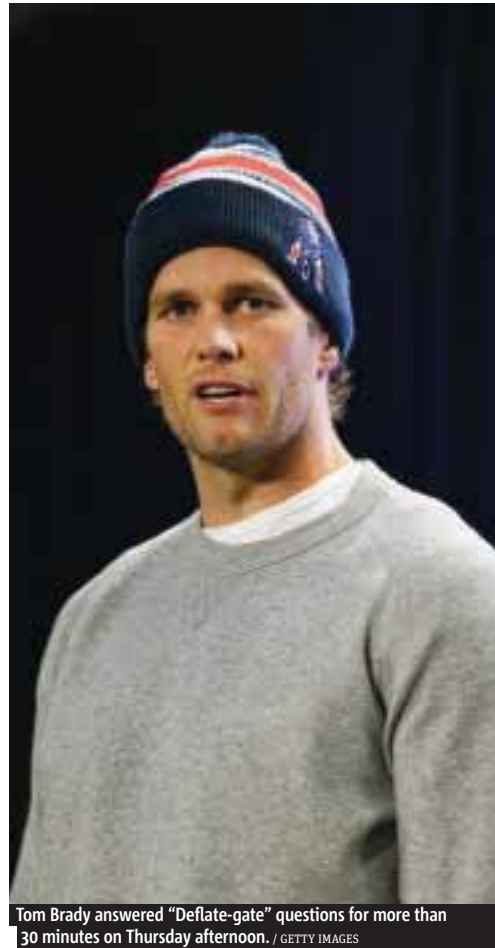
Former NFL quarterback and current ESPN analyst Mark Brunell hammered Tom Brady on the air immediately following Brady's press conference Thursday.

- "I do not believe what Tom had to say," Brunell said. "I don't believe there's an equipment manager in the NFL that would, on his own initiative, deflate a ball without the starting quarterback's approval."



MARK BRUNELL  
GETTY IMAGES

MATT BURKE  
@Burke\_Metro  
sports@metro.us



Tom Brady answered "Deflate-gate" questions for more than 30 minutes on Thursday afternoon. / GETTY IMAGES

## Quoted

"I'm not a conspiracy theorist. I have no idea what happened ... I don't believe [I'm a cheater]. I feel like I've always played within the rules. I would never do anything to break the rules. I believe in fair play and I respect the league."

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, on "Deflate-gate"

# 3

SPORTS



NHL

## Rangers, Isles cruising

The Rangers (44-27-13) and Islanders (46-31-14) are both firmly in the playoff mix in the Eastern Conference as the NHL breaks this weekend for its All-Star festivities in Columbus, Ohio. The Islanders own the second-best record in the Eastern Conference while the Rangers sit in sixth place thanks to a recent surge.

## NFL. Folks at FireJohnIdzik.com like new GM Maccagnan, for now

Don't plan on any billboards asking for the firing of New York Jets general manager Mike Maccagnan and certainly not from the people who helped oust the former GM.

"Wednesday's press conference was a breath of fresh air for Jets fans," the group's spokesman told Metro. "Mike Maccagnan and Todd Bowles really did a great job of portraying the image to fans that the circus has



Mike Maccagnan was named Jets GM last week. / GETTY IMAGES

officially left town. This press conference was neither 'entertaining' nor 'fun.' It was all business. No bold predictions or corporate taglines necessary. We firmly stand behind our new leadership and look forward to the future of the Jets."

According to Domain.com which registers domain names, the Web address for FireMikeMaccagnan.com was recently purchased. KRISTIAN DYER

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CORPORATION LAW SECTION  
1111  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
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CORPORATION

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